

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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-----171406Z 115712/47

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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S E C R E T CAIRO 6386

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, CG
SUBJ: SADAT ON ZAIRE

1. WHEN WITH SADAT THIS MORNING, HE ASKED THAT I PASS THE FOLLOWING TO PRES CARTER AND SEC VANCE.

2. RECALLING HIS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON ABOUT ZAIRE, SADAT SAID HE HAD JUST HAD REPORT FROM GAMASY ABOUT THE FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY MISSION SENT TO ZAIRE. INITIALLY, THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY MISSION HAD ENCOUNTERED SOME DIFFICULTY IN VISITING THE SHABA AREA. A FRENCH-BELGIAN JOINT MILITARY COMMITTEE HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO ALLOW IT TO GO, BUT HAD FINALLY AGREED. THE EGYPTIANS HAD DISCOVERED THAT MOBOTU'S CLAIM THAT T-54 AND T-55 TANKS HAD BEEN DEPLOYED TO SHABA WAS NOT RPT NOT CORRECT. WE HAD BEEN CORRECT IN OUR IMPRESSION ON THIS MATTER. HE SHOWED SOME ANNOYANCE THAT THE FRENCH HAD NOT CLARIFIED THE SITUATION FOR HIM. HE WAS STILL AWAITING A FULL REPORT FROM THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY MISSION, WHICH HE PROMISED TO SEND TO US AS SOON AS IT IS RECEIVED.

3. MEANWHILE, SADAT STATED, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PREVENT THE SOVIETS FROM HAVING A "FREE HAND" IN AFRICA. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE MOBOTU REGIME IS CORRUPT AND THAT UNITED SECRET

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STATES AND FRENCH REPORTS TO THIS EFFECT WERE CORRECT. THE ZAIRIAN ARMY HAD DESERTED AND REFUSED TO FIGHT. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS PUTTING THIS ASIDE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE BROADER PROBLEM. HE INTENDS TO DISCUSS THE ZAIRIAN SITUATION WITHING HASSAN WITH A VIEW TO THE TWO OF THEM PUTTING PRESSURE ON MOBOTU TO CURB CORRUPTION, TO IMPROVE THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION AND TO SHOW A "NEW FACE". SADAT OPINED THAT

ALL OF US HAVE A "MORAL OBLIGATION" TO KEEP THE SOVIETS
OUT OF AFRICA.

4. SO FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED, HE INTENDS TO HELP MOBOTU.
RECALLING THAT MOBOTU HAS MIRAGE AIRCRAFT, SADAT NOTED THAT
EGYPT HAS HIGHLY TRAINED MIRAGE PILOTS AND THOUGHT HE
MIGHT SEND SOME MIRAGE CREWS AND GROUND PERSONNEL TO ZAIRE.
HE ALSO NOTED THAT GAMASY HAD PREPARED A LIST OF MILITARY
EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR AFRICA AND THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD BE
GIVEN TO ME BY FAHMY IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO. ON THE BASIS
OF HIS WASHINGTON TALKS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION AND WITH
MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, HE HOPED WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.

5. AS I WAS LEAVING, HE AGAIN ASSURED ME THAT A FULL REPORT
OF THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE WILL BE GIVEN TO US AS SOON AS
RECEIVED FROM THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY MISSION NOW THERE.

6. DEPT REPEAT AS DESIRED.
EILTS

SECRET

NNN

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